



LEURA GARDEN CLUB INC
 friendship through gardens since 1955
NOVEMBER 2022
leuragardenclub.org.au

President Lorraine McMiles 0447 437 715
 lormcmiles@westnet.com.au

Secretary Murray Bailey 0466 038 386
 Mail to: 2 Abbotsford Road, Katoomba, 2780

Membership Secretary Margaret Kristiansson
 0411 578 464 amkris@optusnet.com.au

Treasurer Marian Haire 0411 658 562

Bank: BSB 032 828 A/c 571 002

Newsletter editor Roz Sing roz.sing@protonmail.com

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at St Alban's Hall, Megalong St, Leura from 9.45am

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Springtime needs a new name "Rain time". Lots happened in October.

Garden lovers were treated to the Leura Garden Festival's fabulous open gardens.

At our October meeting **Lachlan Hart** (horticulturist, Birches Nursery) wheeled in another barrow-load of colourful plants, spoke about 'what's new' and answered questions. **Barbara Levy** from the Iris Society talked about the upcoming Iris Show at Everglades. **Irma Mahling** displayed her magnificent pot of Chinese Ground Orchids, *Pleione Formosana*. **Robin Johnson** spoke about his recently published book *The Gardener through History* and modern connections to gardening. Our Spring Flowers Ramble through **Don Le Quesne's** vast *Cherrydell* and **Trish and Bill Fewers'** formal garden was amazing in the misty rain. For lunch we returned to Lily's Pad Leura for refreshment and a chat.



We were sorry to receive **Liz Cunningham's** resignation as Vice President due to ill health and thank Liz for her long service to the club. Archiving is almost complete for the 'Deed of Gift' to the Historical Society. Thank you **Marian Haire** and **Tony Burbidge**. Our Katoomba Hospital Garden Volunteers, **Margaret Brown** and **Merle Hansard**, have handed the reigns to Rotary after 12 years of service. Our thanks go to both and the other club members who have worked in the hospital garden over the years ... **Happy gardening, Lorraine**

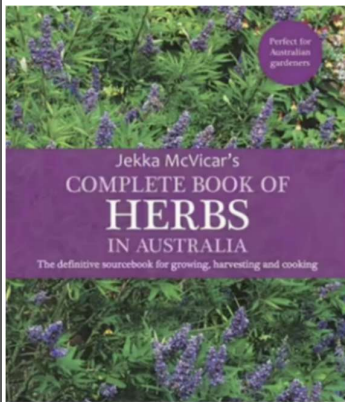
NOVEMBER GUEST SPEAKER	NOVEMBER GARDEN RAMBLE
Lyndall Crompton – <i>Saving the heritage Shipley Apples</i> . Lyndall runs Blackheath Community Farm's Compost Lab and volunteers with Farm It Forward. Come and learn how to propagate apples and much more.	Join us for a ramble through Greg Carty's garden in North Katoomba. Greg has a particular interest in worm farms and citrus growing. Lunch at Katoomba RSL will follow the ramble.
RAFFLE WINNERS	WELFARE
Greg Carty – plant Gynia Favot – Lavender	If you know of someone who needs a card please contact Kerrie Lee 4757 3176

Remember the club's **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** starts at noon, Tuesday 13 December 2022 at The Grandview Hotel, Wentworth Falls. Cost \$55 per person paid to BSB 032 828 A/c 571 002 – "Surname + Christmas Lunch" by 15 November OR Cash to Treasurer at the November meeting.



PLEASE RETURN YOUR CLUB LIBRARY BOOKS AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Liz Fox will be doing a stocktake over the Christmas break.



Jekka McVicar's *Complete book of herbs in Australia* is the definitive source book for growing, harvesting and cooking. It was added to the library following a club member's request for a good book about herbs.

Jekka has grown herbs for over 30 years and knows the most common pitfalls to avoid. She offers plans for planting herb gardens, be it for aromatherapy or cooking, and guidance on propagation, harvesting, herbs in containers, pests and diseases as well as a yearly calendar.

Over 150 herbs are covered from the most common such as mint and basil to the more exotic, such as turmeric and lemon grass. For each herb Jekka outlines various species, its history, cultivation, propagation and harvesting and then looks at cosmetic, medicinal and culinary uses, with over 250 recipes.



LEURA PUBLIC SCHOOL PROJECT Lorraine McMiles and Marian Haire met with the Principal and donated fresh Waratah flowers for the Sculpture Walk. On 24 October Lorraine and Marian delivered hundreds of Hellebore seedlings to the school to cover the newly created garden under the Oak tree. The newly planted orchard at the school (donated by Birches Nursery) will need a metal cage to protect the fruit, this could be a possible future LGC project together with the supply of a bird bath. The goal is to have a well maintained, beautiful school yard for the 200+ students.



Strawberries are once again in plentiful supply at a reasonable price. Here's **Kerry Brada's** super easy and super delicious strawberry jam recipe. Give it a try.

- 500g hulled and halved strawberries
- 1½ cups caster sugar
- ½ tspn vanilla extract
- ¼ cup lime juice

Combine in a bowl and set aside for 15 minutes for the strawberries to soften. Microwave uncovered on high for 4 minutes, stirring every minute or until the sugar has dissolved.

Microwave on high uncovered for a further 18 minutes, stirring every 3 minutes or until jam reaches setting point. Set aside for 2 minutes to let the bubbles subside. Spoon into a hot sterilised jar, seal and cool. Store in the frig once opened.

PAGE TWO For over ten years **Chan Carroll** has been creating a feature plant page for the LGC Newsletter. Chan now wishes to limit her contribution to a few articles a year. Some of Chan's past articles can be found on the club website at

<https://leuragardenclub.org.au/fact-sheets/>

Our sincere thanks go to Chan for preparing such interesting information for the Club over such a long period of time. When Chan's articles are not available in future, page 2 will be given over to other items of interest to Club members. Are you interested in photography – send your pic with a script about the photo to **Roz Sing**. Let your fellow club members know about any interesting plant you have discovered, a tasty recipe featuring an in-season fruit or vegetable or a great gardening joke. The simplest way to contribute to the newsletter will be by email to roz.sing@protonmail.com



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Don Le Quesne's *Cherrydell* is a colourful spring garden that Leura Garden Club members have been invited to visit many times. This year there was a spectacular band of vibrant pink azaleas to see as we walked through the gate (showcased by Don with Billy). Don said there are 400,000 bluebells and vast swathes greeted us as we moved further into the garden. A new small area of tulips contrasted beautifully with the bluebells. Amazingly, the largely native zone of the garden has thrived in this period of high rainfall, particularly the *Xanthorrhoea* (grass trees) which are tall and very healthy. Many of our members have reported their native plants have died during this big wet.

Don has had his problems too – the *Clivias* he planted under deciduous trees didn't like this winter's cold and he is going to move them to a more protected spot. Sadly, vandals entered the garden and cut off lots of tulip flowers.



Trish and Bill Fewer's beautifully manicured, formal garden offered strong contrast to *Cherrydell's* mass plantings. Garden development started 13 years ago. Looking beautiful at the moment are the *Viburnum plicatum tomentosum* (LHS) and the delicate *Isotoma fluviatilis* (below). The water feature is an absolute delight at this time of year.

